

Determination of NEPA Adequacy

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

OFFICE: Alaska State Office

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-AK-963-2009-003-DNA

CASEFILE NUMBER: AA-65513

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Public Land Order; Revocation of Portions of Public Land

Orders Nos. 5176, 5179, and 5180, Alaska

LOCATION: The East Alaska Resource Management Plan Bering Glacier Planning Unit, east of Cordova, Alaska

APPLICANT (if any): N/A

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

As provided by Section 17(d)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the described lands were withdrawn by the Department of the Interior for study and classification. The East Alaska Record of Decision (ROD) and approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) determined that the withdrawals are no longer necessary and that a portion of the lands should be open to surface entry, mining, and mineral leasing. The proposed action is to implement the opening through a Public Land Order that will partially revoke the prior Public Land Orders, as they apply to this geographic area.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP : East Alaska Resource Management Plan Date Approved 9/7/2007

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

East Alaska Approved Resource Management Plan

II. Management Decisions

I. Lands and Realty

1- 7: Withdrawal Review

1-7-a: Management Actions (ANCSA (d)(1) withdrawals)

I-7-a-6: All ANCSA (d)(1) withdrawals not mentioned in numbers 1-5 above would be recommended for revocation.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

East Alaska RMP/Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision, approved 9/7/2007

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes, the proposed action was specifically considered for this area in the East Alaska RMP/FEIS.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes, the proposed action was specifically considered in the range of alternatives analyzed in the East Alaska RMP/FEIS.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances? N/A Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

No new information or circumstances have arisen that would affect the proposed action.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes, the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed action were considered in the East Alaska RMP, Chapter II, Section D and throughout Chapter IV.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes, scoping for the East Alaska RMP/EIS was initiated in March of 2003. Documentation of the extensive interagency and public involvement efforts, as well as thorough analysis of input received is included in Chapter V and Appendix J of the RMP/FEIS.

E. Persons/Agencies /BLM Staff Consulted

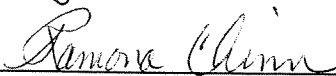
Please refer to Chapter V of the East Alaska RMP/FEIS.

Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

Signature of Project Lead  2-9-09

Signature of NEPA Coordinator  2/9/09

Signature of the Responsible Official:  Date 2/12/09